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Lightning Sparks Siskiyou County Wildfires

Yreka, CA- A storm moved across Siskiyou County last night with 345 down strikes recorded. Yreka Interagency command center received over fifty 911 calls related to the storm. As of this morning the lightning had resulted in nine small fires throughout the County. All fires are staffed and currently being suppressed.

The Klamath National Forest has reported seven fires. The largest of these fires is the Grizzly fire at just over half an acre and located in the Salmon River area of the Salmon/Scott Ranger District. At the time of this news release all but two of these fires have containment lines constructed around them with crews making progress on the remaining fires.

CAL FIRE responded to two confirmed lightning fires. One fire was southwest of Gazelle near the ridge line near Park Mountain and the other was off East Louie Road Both fires were less than one acre and have been contained. CAL FIRE continues to assist the KNF and SHF on incidents within Federal Direct Protection Areas throughout the county. Lightning with precipitation is predicted through Wednesday.

The Klamath National Forest had all fire resources available this weekend as well as extra firefighting resources brought in from other areas in anticipation of the increased fire activity. A strike team of engines from the Tahoe National Forest, a hotshot crew from the Lassen National Forest and a number of prevention patrols are assisting. Both local helicopters and Air Attack are home with a type 1 helicopter from Southern California enroute for further support.

Fire staff continues to monitor the landscape for any additional fires that may show today and tomorrow as a result of predicted lightning. Supplemental detection, in the form of Air Recon and mountain top lookouts continues to aid in the detection of new fires around the County.

Please remember that CAL FIRE is in a County wide residential burn ban and the Klamath National Forest remains under Fire Restrictions. Earlier this month Forest Supervisor Patricia Grantham said “It is imperative that we do what we can to raise public awareness of these unprecedented conditions and prevent any human-caused spark from igniting a wildfire this summer. There is zero risk to homes, firefighters, citizens, natural resources and communities, from the fire that never starts.”

To find out more about what you can do to prevent human caused, unwanted wildfires, please go to www.preventwildfireca.org